



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
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Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

Office of Operations, Eligibility & Pharmacy
Medical Care Programs

Joseph E. Davis
Executive Director

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Pharmacy Transmittal No. 179

December 5, 2005

TO: Physicians
Pharmacies
Managed Care Organizations

FROM: Joseph E. Davis, Executive Director
Office of Operations, Eligibility and Pharmacy

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

RE: Termination of Coverage of Drugs to Treat Erectile Dysfunction

Effective January 1, 2006 the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (MMAP) and the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program (MPAP) will no longer cover drugs used to treat erectile dysfunction. This is the result of federal legislation recently passed eliminating coverage of these drugs from federally funded programs such as the MMAP and the MPAP. Drug products currently on the market and affected by this action are alprostadil injection (Caverject and Edex), alprostadil suppositories (Muse), sildenafil tablets (Viagra), tadalafil tablets (Cialis), and vardenafil tablets (Levitra).

Revatio was recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) and contains sildenafil, the active ingredient of Viagra. Prescriptions for Revatio will be covered by the Program when used to treat this condition but will require preauthorization. Prescribers must contact the Program and provide documentation confirming the diagnosis of PAH before the Program will approve payment. Pharmacists and physicians can call 410-767-1755 to obtain preauthorization for Revatio.

Questions concerning this transmittal should be directed to the Division of Pharmacy Services 410-767-1455.